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# USAG Schinnen Tri-border News Notes

## Dutch and Americans toast in New Year



Photo by LaDonna Davis

Top: USAG Schinnen Leadership greet members of the Dutch Community along with Schinnen employees as they enter the 2006 Commanders New Years Reception. From far right to left Rita Hoefnagels, Lt. Col. Richardson, Carmen Richardson, July Rusch, and Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Rusch.

By LaDonna Davis

Local Dutch authorities were given the opportunity to cultivate new relationships between the Dutch and American people and look to the new year during U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen's annual New Year's Reception held at USAG Schinnen Dec. 4.

Local area mayors, civic leaders, Dutch military officials, NATO leaders, fire brigade personnel, Dutch Royal Police and local area police all attended the event and were provided the opportunity to interact with their particular counterpart during the reception which has become a Dutch tradition.

"I like that the municipality of Schinnen has such a good relationship with the base of Schinnen, especially over the last few years, said Schinnen Mayor Frans Beckers.

"The relationship has become very intense which is very good considering the fact that the world situation asks for good relationships between the Netherlands and America. We like to have good contacts with our American friends."

During the evening, the two communities were able to come together for good food and good conversation and were given

the opportunity to toast in the New Year to friendship and camaraderie during USAG Schinnen Commander, Lt. Col. Richardson's New Years toast.

"The Dutch and the United States have a long relationship and USAG Schinnen needs to manifest that relationship on a person to person basis every day," said Richardson.



Mayor of Margraten, Harry Van Beers (L) and Mayor Frans Beckers of Schinnen toast in the New Years with the leadership of USAG Schinnen. "My wish for the New Years is for a world that is more safe, in a safe world we can trust each other and that's a good start for friendship said Beers."

"Events like this are a great team building opportunity," said 2nd Lt. Aguigui, operations officer at USAG Schinnen. "You network here, you get a chance to meet people here that you normally wouldn't get a chance to meet on a day to day basis and that's really what it's all about, it's about camaraderie and team building."

"It's a good thing to see people, to bring back some

memories of what we did last year, like Bush coming to Holland, and to see all the people that during their busy schedules throughout the year we don't get to see," said Lt. Bultsma chief of the military police south of Holland.

By coming together once a year in a relaxed atmosphere, the Dutch and the Americans are able to foster old relationships, and gain new friendships.

"The unique thing about the Dutch is that they welcome everybody with open arms regardless of who they are. I hope that in the future they continue that rapport with the U.S. Army and Department of the Army civilians," Aguigui said.

"I hope that the relationship between the Dutch and Americans continues to grow more intensive. I understand that in June there will be a new commander of this base and I shall surely have good contacts with the man or women that will be the new commander of Schinnen exactly the same way I did when we had the change of command several years ago," said Beckers.

## Geilenkirchen West (back) gate closed due to tree controversy

(The following message is sent on behalf of Col. Reinhard Mack, Commander)

Men and Women of the E-3A Component:

The Mayor of Onderbanken has declared the forest and surrounding roads a forbidden area as of 5 January 2006. Anyone entering the area may be arrested.

Contractors are preparing to remove trees from the Schinveld forest soon and as we all know, this project is controversial. A number of groups have chosen to protest the cutting and have increased their activities lately. In recent days we have seen everything from vandalism against the perimeter fence to protest activities in the forest. We have also received reports of vandalism against personal vehicles in the area.

The controversy surrounding this tree cutting is not likely to diminish for some time and I encourage everyone to take extra steps to ensure personal safety and to avoid confrontation with protestors. I especially

encourage those of you who use the West Gate to be aware of your surroundings and to exercise additional caution when traveling to or from the base. Even those who may use the



base jogging trails along the fence in that area should consider alternate routes.

Although we hope this project will proceed peacefully, we have no guarantees. Recent months have shown how protests can get out of

hand and I am eager to see this project completed with a minimum of disruption and as safely and peacefully as possible.

As you go about your day, please continue to pay special attention to your surroundings, both on and off base. If you see anything out of the ordinary, report it as soon as possible to the IMP office on base. As always, vigilance is the key to safety.

More information about this project will become available in coming days and we will ensure you are kept up to date as we learn more.

Stephen D. Schmidt

Brigadier General, USAF

Commander NAEW&CF E-3A Component

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

The USAG Schinnen Child Youth Service family childcare program is looking for family childcare providers. If you are living in a U.S. government leased home and are interested in starting a career as a professional child care provider in your home, please contact the USAG Schinnen family child care program at 0031-45-563-6019 or 0031-45-563-6221 or email at [CYS.Schinnen@benelux.army.mil](mailto:CYS.Schinnen@benelux.army.mil)

The U.S. Army Child Development Center in Brunsum, NL has a full-time Assistant Director position open. The salary ranges from \$30,000-\$39,000. Please apply online at <http://www.chra.army.mil> before Jan. 10. For more information call 364-2575 or 045-526-2575.

## Super Bowl XL comes to Schinnen!!!!

Are you ready for some football...

Coming February 5th, the Schinnen Bowling Center will host a *super* Super Bowl Party in the Memories Lane Lounge.

To assure yourself a seat at the party, you must pay \$5 in advance at the Bowling Center, or take your chances and pay \$10 at the door. The party starts at 10 pm with snacks and door prizes throughout the evening. A delicious chicken enchiladas meal will be served at half-time.

February 5 is just around the corner, so sign up for Super Bowl 40 today.

# Tax Prep Now Will Lead to Faster Refunds

April 15<sup>th</sup> may seem a long way off, but with the hectic life that many DoD families overseas have, in reality it is not that far off at all. U.S. taxpayers living overseas are granted an automatic 2-month extension to file their tax returns. The extension is only for the actual filing of the tax return. If you owe the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) money, the overseas extension does not stop the IRS's interest clock from ticking.

Tax accountants advise their clients that it is never too early to begin to prepare for filing their federal income tax return. It is a year around process for some Americans. Fortunately, most DoD families do not fall into this category and our returns are relatively straightforward. Collecting and organizing the necessary documentation is the most time-consuming step of tax return preparation. USAG-Schinnen taxpayers can take some simple steps now to make life a lot easier when filing their 2005 tax returns. Here is how:

## **1. Gather Necessary Financial Documents**

The most important document for filing an income tax return is the W-2 Form generated by your employer. The W-2 is an annual statement to the employee--and the IRS--listing the total income earned and total tax withheld. W-2s are required to be prepared by the end of January. A soldier's W-2 should be available by the end of January at: <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>.

Taxpayers may also receive a Form 1099-INT from their bank, which lists interest earned from a savings or checking account, and a Form 1099-DIV from a brokerage account. These are just two examples of the many reporting forms for taxable income. These financial records should be segregated in a clearly marked location once they are received in the mail.

## **2. Obtain Social Security Numbers and Taxpayer Identification Numbers**

All taxpayers and dependents listed on a tax return require either a Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) prior to filing their tax return. A U.S. citizen or eligible resident can obtain a SSN by filling out Form SS-5 with the Social Security Administration. Contact your local legal assistance office for more details.

Not all taxpayers and dependents are eligible for a SSN. Nonresident aliens included on a tax return must obtain an ITIN. There are two ways to obtain an ITIN:

--Requesting the number in writing **using IRS Form W-7**. Processing time may take 4-6 weeks.

--Prepare a W-7 Form and attach it to this year's return.

Before applying for an ITIN, you must have access to original source documents for verification purposes, **such as a passport, personal identity card, or driver's license. Bring the originals to the Legal Assistance Office and have certified copies made to send along with your W-7 ITIN application—do not send originals.** And please note, one may not e-file in the year one requests an ITIN. Contact your legal assistance office for more details.

If you recently changed your name, you must continue to file your tax returns under your former name until your SSN is updated to reflect your change-of-name. You can use Form SS-5 to update your correct name on the Social Security Card as well. Form SS-5 and instructions can be found on-line at <http://www.ssa.gov/>

## **3. Obtain Proof to Claim a Dependent Exemption**

Only one taxpayer may claim a dependent for any single tax year. Parents filing separate returns may both wish to claim their child on their individual tax return. The IRS will assume that the parent with physical custody is entitled to claim the child on their tax return. The non-custodial parent may claim the exemption for the child, but only with supporting documentation. Proof could be an IRS Form 8332 or similar signed document from the custodial parent or a final divorce decree giving the non-custodial parent the unconditional right to claim the child as a federal tax exemption.

## **4. Obtain a Power of Attorney from Your Spouse**

Both spouses need to sign the income tax return when filing a joint return. Even spouses who live apart may continue to file a joint return. One taxpayer may sign a tax return for the other spouse, but only if they possess a valid Power of Attorney from their spouse. This permission should be in the form of a Special Power of Attorney that specifically grants the power to sign the 2005 joint tax return, or use a completed and signed IRS Form 2848.

Taxpayers with tax related questions should contact The Netherlands Law Center in Treebeek, The Netherlands, at DSN 364-6204. Beginning in February, the law center will be offering tax preparation services to service members, military retirees, DA and DoD civilians and contractors and their dependent with a valid ID card. This service is free of charge. The only request is that you have all the necessary documents with you at the time you come to have your income tax return prepared.



*Coming to USAG Schinnen Sports Center  
January 31, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.*



**La Mafía**

OSCAR DE LA RÔSA  
ARMANDO LICHTENBERGER JR.  
DAVID DE LA GARZA  
JÓE GÓNZALEZ  
TIM ROIZ  
IVÁN BÓVE

USO

U.S. ARMY  
MWR  
FOR ALL OF YOUR LIFE

ARMED  
FORCES  
ENTERTAINMENT



## Leisure Activities ~ by Rita Hoefnagels

**Jan. 13-15:** *Interclassics & Topmobiel 2006* at MECC in Maastricht (NL). A unique car fair with many unique and beautiful classic cars. Open: Jan. 13, 2-9 p.m. and Jan. 14-15, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Entry: €13.50. Info: 0031-(0)43-3838383.

**Jan. 14-15 and 21-22:** *Winter Efteling* in Kaastheuveel near Tilburg (NL). At the attractive illuminated fairy tale and amusement park visitors will find real old-fashion winter fun with live entertainment and lots of special winter food. The majority of attractions are open as well. Open daily 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Entry: €24.

**Jan. 19-22:** *Attractive Living Fair* at IJsselhallen in Zwolle (NL), an inspiring fair where visitors will find many beautiful decorations, interiors, accessories, art, furniture and information. Entry: €7.50. Information: 0031-(0)38-4211843.

**Jan. 21-22:** *Jewelry Fair* at MECC in Maastricht (NL). Entry: €3.50. Open: Jan. 21, noon-5 p.m.; Jan. 22, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Info: 0031-(0)43-3838383.

## Tax Season fast approaching

USAREUR Public Affairs

W-2 season is almost around the corner, DFAS will have W-2 tax forms available on **myPay** to all Soldiers on active duty or service members in the reserves and National Guard. Federal law mandates W-2s be made available on or before January 31, 2006.

To the individuals who take advantage of **myPay** DFAS has the ability to make your tax form available sooner. When W-2s are accessible on **myPay** notice to military members' e-mail will be sent out via Smart-

Docs. The schedule for **myPay** W-2 availability is as follows:

**Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve – December 29, 2005**

**Marine Corps: Active and Reserve – January 10, 2006**

**Active Army, Navy, and Air Force – January 21, 2006**

While selected Soldiers are required to use electronic delivery of their W-2s, others have the option to receive their

tax forms via mail or electronically. Soldiers can view, print and save their W-2s online. Soldiers using the electronic version are asked to stop hard-copy delivery by choosing "Turn on/off Hard Copy of W-2" on the main menu.

W-2s are maintained on the **myPay** system for one year for all Soldiers, including service members removed from pay status or separated.

### T-SGLI Deduction

USAREUR Public Affairs

Effective 1 December 2005 all Soldiers enrolled in Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) **will** become insured for Traumatic Injury Coverage (T-SGLI) up to \$100,000. Likewise, beginning 1 December 2005 all first time enrollments for SGLI will automatically become insured for Traumatic Injury Coverage. Service members will remain insured for T-SGLI unless the Soldier later declines SGLI coverage. T-SGLI itself **can not** be declined. If the member elects SGLI coverage then T-SGLI coverage will be included.

Each service member who has SGLI coverage will be charged an additional \$1.00 each month for T-SGLI coverage. This charge will be added to the Soldier's SGLI premium currently being collected.

EXAMPLE: Member has SGLI coverage of \$50,000; cost to member for SGLI is \$3.75 plus \$1.00 (T-SGLI) for a total deduction of \$4.75 per month.

### Combat zone tax exclusion problems

USAREUR Public Affairs

Soldiers who deployed to a combat zone after the first week of December may not receive the combat zone tax exclusion on their December leave and earnings statement. This is because the pay system requires a cutoff date for the exclusion to be implemented, said Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Roberson, command sergeant major for 266<sup>th</sup> Finance Command.

Current tax laws do not allow for the correction of taxes withheld in a prior tax year, Roberson said. However, the 2005 corrected W-2 will display the correct taxable wages. Soldiers can recoup the December taxes when they file their tax returns.

For more information, stop by your finance office, or visit the USAREUR home page and click on Finance.

# Teams Fielding DTS in Europe

## USAREUR Public Affairs

The Army in Europe is upgrading the way it handles official travel with new software designed to make planning and reimbursement quicker and easier.

According to the Defense Travel System website, the new program is a "seamless, paperless, automated system that meets the needs of individual travelers and force commanders," and will "support defense mission requirements, provide superior customer service to the traveler and to the command and reduce costs to the government."

With DTS, travelers can input and update travel requests electronically,

input and digitally sign actual trip information, prepare claims electronically, review trip records at any time and receive quicker travel reimbursements.

A DTS fielding team will travel through Europe this year to implement the system in all units. From January through March, the team will service Ansbach, Katterbach, Illesheim, Bamberg, Hanau, Giessen, Vilseck, Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Kaiserslautern and Landstuhl.

From April through June, they will visit Stuttgart, Garmisch, Hessen, Wiesbaden, Darmstadt, Baumholder, Pirmasens, Miesau, Kaiserslautern and Mannheim.

From July through September, the team will field the system in Wuerzburg, Schweinfurt, Kitzingen, Giebelstadt, Kaiserslautern, Italy, Belgium and England.

To find out what dates the DTS Fielding team will be in your area, contact the 266th Finance Command at DSN 379-5263/5133/5174/5166.

To learn more about DTS, visit [www.defensetravel.osd.mil](http://www.defensetravel.osd.mil), or visit the 266th Finance Command website at [www.266fc.hqusareur.army.mil](http://www.266fc.hqusareur.army.mil).

# AGCRA

*Adjutant General Corps Regimental Association*

Your local "Windmill Chapter" will be hosting a

## **Membership Drive**

The event will include a

# CHILI COOKOFF

Contest

*Cash prizes will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners.*

*Door Prizes! You must be a current member or become a member to be eligible for a door prize.*

**Wednesday, 25 January 2006**

JFC US Delegation Room

Bldg H-603

1200-1300

## **Elections for Chapter Officers**

President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer

*Contact SGT Jackson @ DSN 364-2518 or CPT Wallace @ DSN 364-3671 to sign up for the Chili Contest, Elections, or questions.*

*You can access <http://www.agregiment.com> and select membership to become a member.*

**\*\* Note - You do not have to be an Adjutant General Corp Soldier to become a member. \*\***

**Membership is opened to all service members and civilians.**

*\*The Adjutant General's Corps Regimental Association is a private, nonprofit organization providing opportunities for all Active, Reserve, National Guard and Retired Adjutant General Corps Officers, Warrant Officers, Enlisted Members and Civilians to aid in preserving, for posterity, the proud heritage of the U.S. Army Adjutant General Corps.*

# GEILENKIRCHEN US MEDICAL CLINIC NEWS

## Flu vaccine is here for all DoD Beneficiaries!

All spouses, retirees, family members, and US civilians are encouraged to come to the clinic for their flu vaccination. We received more vaccine in late November and we have plenty of supply for those who are eligible in our community.

## How you can reduce your chances of getting the flu or a cold

1. Wash hands often with soap and water. If unavailable, use an alcohol-based cleaner or rub your hands together very hard for one-minute to break up most cold germs. Wash your hands as soon as soap and water are available.

2. Don't touch your face, drink fluids; adult – ten 8 oz glasses daily, eat healthy meals and snacks, avoid large crowds indoors, get plenty of fresh air.

3. Don't smoke and reduce alcohol consumption, get plenty of rest and sleep, learn to relax, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, wash hands often with soap and water.

Signs/Symptoms:	Flu	Cold
Onset	Sudden	Gradual
Fever	High >101 F lasting 3-4 days	Rare
Cough	Dry	Hacking
Headache	Common	Rare
Muscle aches/Pain	Usually/Often severe	Slight
Tired/Weak	Lasts up to 2-3 weeks	Very mild
Exhaustion	Early and severe	Never
Chest discomfort	Common	Mild to moderate
Stuffy nose	Sometimes	Common
Sneezing	Sometimes	Usual
Sore throat	Sometimes	Common

For medical emergencies, immediately go to the nearest civilian emergency room. Do NOT drive to the US clinic!

Patients should keep a current 470th Medical Flight Clinic Handbook which lists emergency room directions in their home or cars. A copy can be obtained at our TRICARE office. The latest edition is dated November 2004. We are planning to publish another version in late November 2005.

**Health Care Information Line:** A toll free access to a confidential 24/7 health advice line staffed by US nurses.

Germany: 0800-825-1600

Netherlands: 0800-022-7944

Belgium: 0800-71920

## Our Hours:

Listed below are the clinic's patient care hours.

Medical:

Mon/Wed/Fri: 0800 - 1700

Tues: 0800 - 1600

Thurs: 0800 - 1130 (open later some Thursday afternoons for scheduled appointment only)

\* Note: Our pharmacy, laboratory, radiology, and HAWC close for lunch on days that they are one deep so our staff can serve patients in a quality manner for the afternoon. Immunizations is one deep and closes from 1130-1300 daily.

Dental:

Monday/Wednesday/Friday: 0745 - 1700

Tues: 0745 - 1600

Thurs: 0745 - 1130 (open some Thursday afternoons for scheduled appointments only)

To reach the 470th Medical Flight on-call provider for telephone emergency advice when the clinic is closed:

Medical: 0049-171-260-9365

Dental: 0049-171-260-9570

For routine appointments, please call the clinic at

Medical: 0049-2451-99-3200

Dental: 0049-2451-99-3535

**Urgent Care After Hours:** The US clinic TRICARE office has put together a new program to help patients access urgent care support. Urgent care services are medically necessary services required for an illness or injury that would not result in further disability or death if not treated immediately. However, urgent care requires professional attention and should be treated within 24 hours. General rules for the urgent care clinics:

- The urgent care clinic is for urgent medical problems that can not wait until the next day
- You need to call the urgent care clinic first to make the appointment. They will Triage you (Please note that telephone consults are not covered by TRICARE)
- Describe your condition; provide name, address, postal code, date of birth, insurance, and

**Tip about Pharmacies in the Germany Economy:** your doctor's name and list the name(s) of the medication(s) that you are using, and have chronic illness/prescription

If you have chronic illness/prescription on the economy from a referral physician, it's important that you know that the pharmacies in Germany are usually closed Wednesday & Friday afternoon. Here is a WEB site you can use to look up the after hours Pharmacy for your area: <http://www.apotheker-nordrhein.de/apotheke/notdienst/index.htm>

Type the first 3 figures of the postal code PLZ ... and click Notdienstbezirk suchen or Type the city where you live ORT ..... And click Notdienstbezirk suchen. Then you click on "zum Kalender bitte hier klicken" Then you click on "Notdienst anfordern" it will list the pharmacy after hours on that day.

TRICARE can not be responsible for any inaccuracies on the pharmacy web site, for directions we advice you to use a route planner or map.

## Change of office Hours

The opening hours of the DPW SHIP-store have changed to:

Monday thru Thursday from 0730 - 1715 and on Fridays from 0730 1600

Schinnen's VAT Office Hours on Friday, 13 January are from 0730-1130



***USAG SCHINNEN TRI-BORDER  
SEP COMMITTEE  
PRESENT  
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY  
“REMEMBER! CELEBRATE! ACT!  
A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF!!!”***

*The annual King  
Holiday affords  
us all an  
opportunity to  
reflect upon the  
past while seeking hope,  
determination and  
an opportunity to  
act upon the  
promise of the  
Future*



***GUEST SPEAKER: MR DEXTER GRIFFIN***

***WHAT: A TRIBUTE TO DR. KING/A COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY***

***WHERE: INTERNATIONAL INN BRUNSSUM, NL***

***WHEN: 17 JANUARY 2006/TIME: 1130- 1300 HRS***

***DISPLAYS, SONGS, VIDEO***

***MENU: LUNCHEON /BEVERAGES***

***PRICE: 10 Euros***

***POC: SFC D.M WILLIAMS DSN: 360-7534***

***MR. JERRY FRANCIS DSN: 360-7445***

***MR. KEN GIBSON DSN: 360-7494/COMM: 046-443-7494***